

~~TOP SECRET~~

13 March 1954

Copy No. 84

25X1  
25X1

**CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**

25X1

25X1

**Office of Current Intelligence**

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

25X1

~~TOP SECRET~~

## SUMMARY

### GENERAL

[REDACTED] 25X1

2. Soviet-Iranian talks reportedly proceeding smoothly (page 3).

### SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. New Viet Minh threat to Dien Bien Phu reported (page 4).
5. French Foreign Ministry official favors negotiations with Ho (page 5).

### NEAR EAST - AFRICA

7. Iraq fears foreign interference in Syria (page 6).
- [REDACTED]

### EASTERN EUROPE

9. Czechoslovakia asks help to develop coal industry (page 7).
- [REDACTED] 25X1

\* \* \* \*

[REDACTED] 25X1

- 2 -

[REDACTED]

13 Mar 54

25X1

**GENERAL**

25X1

**2. Soviet-Iranian talks reportedly proceeding smoothly:**

25X1

[REDACTED] Iranian foreign minister Entezam told Ambassador Henderson on 9 March that Soviet-Iranian negotiations on border and financial problems were proceeding more smoothly since the return of the Soviet ambassador from Moscow. He said that it was questionable whether the value of the areas now occupied by the Soviet Union warranted Iran's rejection of an opportunity to obtain an undisputed border in the north.

- 3 -

13 Mar 54

25X1

He added that the Soviet negotiators seemed to think there would be no great difficulty in arranging the release of Iranian gold credits if border problems were settled. Entezam said that the USSR had not intimated that it desired to discuss matters other than those under negotiation.

Comment: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a settlement of border questions on these terms would be generally favorable to the USSR. Moscow successfully negotiated a boundary settlement with Afghanistan in 1948 and renounced its territorial claims against Turkey in May 1953.

25X1

25X1

In subsequent discussions concerning the release of Iranian gold credits, the USSR may inject other matters.

### SOUTHEAST ASIA

#### 3. New Viet Minh threat to Dien Bien Phu reported:

25X1

[REDACTED] that the Viet Minh is stockpiling smoke and white phosphorus shells around Dien Bien Phu, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The French anticipate that any smoke concentrations would make their dug-in positions intolerable and have requested 20,000 gas masks.

Meanwhile, [REDACTED] an unsuccessful enemy attack against one of Dien Bien Phu's defensive positions, [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1  
25X1

25X1

13 Mar 54

25X1

5. French Foreign Ministry official favors negotiations with Ho:

[REDACTED] Deputy Political Director Margerie of the French Foreign Ministry expressed to American embassy representatives in Paris on 11 March his agreement with Pierre Mendes-France's demand for negotiations with Ho Chi Minh, maintaining that "the only way to make peace was to talk with those who were making war." He said that Foreign Minister Bidault had no enthusiasm for the Geneva conference, which domestic pressure had forced on him.

The French official also noted that concern over the Indochina war was far more a parliamentary than a public feeling, since only a relatively few families have men in the professional military units subject to duty in Indochina.

Comment: Heretofore the French Foreign Ministry has been opposed to negotiations with the Viet Minh. Since Bidault is pessimistic on the outcome of Geneva, the Foreign Ministry may be considering the possibility of post-Geneva negotiations with Ho.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

25X1

7. Iraq fears foreign interference in Syria:

25X1

Iraq's Prime Minister Jamali told Ambassador Berry on 11 March he has received reports that France, Saudi Arabia and the United States are currently "active" in Syria.

Jamali fears that France is attempting to re-establish a sphere of influence in Syria with the assistance of other great powers. He hopes American activity will be directed toward promoting closer relations among Arab states, particularly Iraq and Syria, rather than toward dividing the Arab world into foreign spheres of influence.

25X1

- 6 -

13 Mar 54

25X1

25X1

## **EASTERN EUROPE**

### **9, Czechoslovakia asks help to develop coal industry:**



The Czech delegate to the UN Economic Commission for Europe, meeting in Geneva, stated on 11 March that Czechoslovakia

25X1

"would like help in the mechanization and rational use" of its coal mines. Admitting that Czech coal production is inadequate, he suggested to the ECE coal committee that greater attention be given to a "more rational use of European coal resources and higher productivity."

According to a Reuters dispatch from Geneva, Western delegates to the meeting interpreted the Czech action as a "hint" of advances to be made at the forthcoming East-West trade talks.

Comment: This Czech maneuver suggests that the Orbit is prepared to take new steps, through ECE, to foster implementation of current Orbit domestic programs.

- 7 -



13 Mar 54

25X1

Beginning with the ECE meeting last April, Orbit countries have shown an increased willingness to discuss trade with Western nations on a more businesslike basis, which resulted in a number of new trade agreements.

25X1

25X1



- 8 -

13 Mar 54

25X1